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CHAIRPERSON JAMES:

1 Donald Ball.

2 MR. BALL: I am the owner of the Dover
3 Pharmacy, in Dover, Massachusetts. At the end of 1995,
4 we found that our net income from filling prescriptions
5 was less than the net income from our Lottery sales.
6 This is a result of restrictions placed on independent
7 pharmacies by HMOs and health insurance companies.

8 Effective January 1, 1996, we discontinued
9 our pharmacy section and filed a DBA certificate to be
10 known as the Dover Store. Currently, we combine a
11 coffee shop, a lunch counter, a soda fountain and a
12 package liquor store, with convenience store items in
13 approximately 800 square feet.

14 The 1997 census lists the population of
15 Dover as 5,730 in 1,850 households, one of the smaller
16 communities in greater Boston. A town of this size is
17 not able to provide an abundance of municipal services
18 and maintain a realistic tax rate. There is no full
19 time fire department, no town water, no sewer system or
20 rubbish collection or other services found in larger
21 cities and towns.

22 The 1998 cherry sheet aid analysis from the
23 Commonwealth of Massachusetts lists total aid from the
24 state as just over \$380,000. Of this amount, \$157,000

1 or 42 percent, is from the Massachusetts State Lottery.
2 Aid from the Lottery has seen an increase of 70 percent
3 over the past four years, from \$108,000 in 1995 to the
4 current figure of over a \$157,000. The \$157,000
5 received this year equates to \$85 per household, it
6 offsets 74 percent of the town's capital budget of
7 \$213,000.

8 Put in tangibles, the Town of Dover was
9 able to make improvements to the town library, buy
10 computers and software for the high school, refurbish
11 one of its fire trucks, purchase a new police cruiser,
12 automate the school library and purchase a lawn mower
13 for the town cemetery. All this with no effect on the
14 real estate tax rate of \$12.02 per thousand, as a
15 direct result of aid received from the Massachusetts
16 Lottery.

17 Being a Lottery agent has filled a void
18 created by the closing of our prescription department
19 and helped us to continue in business, providing many
20 other services to the community, as we have for the
21 past 37 years.

22 Thank you.

23 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you.